7: Gulick E-5 (1952) 1955 ME1 Lebanon ME1



342 occupies one of these rooms, and perhaps the other is a wash room. The cistern is likely to be enclosed by one or the other of them.

Many of the tile-roof houses have the thick old-style walls, but some do not. Limestone, often fossiliferous, is the universal building material. The floors are of cement, or stone flags, or both.

[331] After the era of great prosperity which ended with the start of the First World War, there appears to have been no building to speak of until the 1950's.

Of the modern houses, there are six which are essentially additions to older structures, either second storeys or side-by-side with, and connected to, the old. Three more are entirely new. These nine conform to older patterns in their limestone masonry, rectangular plan, and room arrangement. The walls are, however, relatively thin, and cement is used much more liberally than of old to hold the stones together. Projecting porches, supported by cylindrical concrete pillars, are a new feature, but the most outstanding innovation is the flat, concrete roof.

There are two more modern houses each of which is in a class by itself. One is the highest house in the village, and at first glance it does not seem unusual. It is built of limestone and has a tile roof. On closer inspection, however, a number of unusual features become evident. There is an extensive ell and a projecting porch in back. A sort of garden path leads to the front door on each side of which there is a trellis. The windows are large, and, of course, glazed. This house is somewhat in the style of the villas which can be seen in Lebanese mountain resorts. Its builder and owner is a man who works and lives in Tripoli, except in the summer.

The other modern house of special note represents the most radical departure from the old patterns. It is not yet completed, consisting only of the frame which is made of reinforced concrete and concrete blocks. (The old-type construction does not require a frame.) Probably it will have a limestone facing, including some curved surfaces, when it is finished, and it will conform in design and construction to a modernistic European style which is frequently seen elsewhere in Lebanon. This house, also, is being built by a summer resident.

● [339] The great increase in the use of concrete is worthy of comment, for cement is one of the few important non-agricultural products of modern Lebanon. Consequently, it is relatively inexpensive. In addition to this, there is its admirable property of plasticity. However, its use in roofs is, in the writer's opinion, a poor environmental adaptation. In winter, concrete roofs make cold, damp ceilings. In summer, they radiate a great deal of heat, and the rooms which have them usually become very hot.

[343] The significance of the ruined houses (*khirbi*) is much more of a social than a material nature. Many ruined houses are used as latrines for there are few specially constructed privies in the village; at least one has its floor plowed up, and this is planted to onions. Otherwise, the ruins have no function whatever. It might be thought that the stones of which they are built would be removed and used in

382 pipeline. Initial yearly capacity will be 500,000 tons, to be raised to 450,000 by 1956; by that date, total investment in the Refinery will be 80 million. Most of the output will be fuel for bunkering, but the lighter products will be available for domestic consumption, meeting all the country's needs for major oil products. 1/

377 Output of electricity has also expanded, from 57 million kilowatt-hours in 1945 to 104 million in 1949, 147 million in 1952 and 284 million in 1955; of the last figure, 65 million kilowatt-hours were produced by thermal generators and 219 million by hydroelectric generators.

331 Construction has been maintained at high level. Authorized construction in Beirut increased from 107,000 square meters of floor space in 1945 to 358,000 in 1948, 385,000 in 1952, 518,000 in 1953 and 267,000 during the first half of 1954. It is estimated that gross expenditure on construction was 11.81 million in 1948, 44.75 million in 1949 and 71.99 million in 1950. 2/ These figures represent some 7 to 10 per cent of the gross national product. Construction represents a large fraction, probably overhalf, of gross investment in Lebanon and absorbs a large proportion of small savings.

339 The building materials industries has expanded to meet construction needs.
323 Owing to expansion of capacity in 1947, output of cement rose from 148,000 tons in 1945 to 209,000 in 1948, 280,000 in 1951, 326,000 in 1953 and 182,000 in the first half of 1954. In recent years, exports have ranged between 20,000 and 60,000 tons. A new plant is under construction. Other industries, such as tile making and glass, have also expanded;output of glassware in 1952 reached 1,300 tons. Various cement products industries have been developed.

258 Food processing represents the most important group of industries, as regards capital employment and value of output (see table 45). Among the principal branches are sugar refining, whose output rose from a negligible amount to 6,000 tons in 1952 and 14,000 in 1955 at which capacity is being expanded; vegetable oils, whose output has risen fro 900 in 1945 to 5,600 in 1952; biscuits, whose output rose from 500 tons a 1945 to 1,800 in 1952; dough products, which increased from 500 tons to 2,400; chocolate, jam and various sweet-meats, with a combined output of 4,700 tons in 195; beer, whose output declined from its war-time peak to 2 million litres in 19; wine, arak and other alcoholic drinks, whose output has risen slightly in the post-war years, to 2.2 million litres in 1955; and soft drinks, whose output has increased more than fourfold, to 9.3 million litres in 1955. 3/ All these industries, except sugar, provide a small export surplus and all are operating well below capacity.

288 The textile industries have been facing difficulties. Silk reeling has declined into a minor occupation, but silkweaving has developed, output rising from 28 tons in 1945 to 580 in 1952; this amount represents only one sixth of Lebanon's consumption. Output of woollencloth has failed to exceed 150 tons,

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1/ Oil and Gas Journal, 7 March 1955.

2/ Albert F. Badre and Aggeig S. Altounian, "National Income of Lebanon", Monograph No. 8: "Income Arising inthe Construction Sector" (Beirut, November 1951).

3/ Figures from Le Commerce du Levant, July 1954, special issue on industry.



[Text continues on P. 161]